

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

PANAMA BUREAU

DRAWER 927

FORT CLAYTON, CANAL ZONE

Pan U.S. Pers

19 December 1978
MPA - 8033

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Administrative Staff

SUBJECT : Panama Bureau Policy on Dual Nationality Question

REFERENCES : Bureau Cable, dated 6 Dec 78
[redacted], dated 8 Dec 78

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1. While [redacted] comments on our 6 December memo were appreciated, they do not provide grounds for altering the bureau's present policy on applicants who claim dual nationality.

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2. We agree that claiming U.S. citizenship does not make one a citizen. However, we see no reason why we should consider for employment any applicant who insists on asserting he holds dual nationality even when he knows we will not hire anyone who claims American citizenship. We make it quite clear to all our applicants that we will not consider such persons for employment.

3. In the two cases that have come to my attention thus far, both applicants had traveled on U.S. passports. They also hold Panamanian passports. Each said that to work for us he was willing to renounce all rights as a U.S. citizen. It was in bringing these cases to the Embassy that we got the decision we reported in our 8 December cable.

4. To sum up, unless there is some Headquarters objection the bureau will continue to follow the Embassy's lead in not hiring applicants who assert their claim to dual nationality. However, if we come across an applicant who has never exercised the rights of an American citizen and whose presumption of U.S. citizenship is flimsy, as in the Ellis Newman case cited by Konrad, we will ask the Embassy's advice and then decide whether to bring the matter to your attention for a final decision.

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[redacted]
Chief, Panama Bureau

CC: C/E&PS
C/Ops